

William Gardner
(1803--1880)

William Gardner, the subject of this sketch, was a pioneer, and the son of a pioneer. His father, Robert Gardner, was born in Scotland, 12 October, 1819, and immigrated to Canada with his parents, afterwards journeying to Nauvoo, arriving there in 1846.

Mr Gardner, with his family, followed the trail of the Mormons, across the State of Iowa. On 22 May 1846, the company camped near Bonaparte, in a terrible rain storm.

The water flooded around the wagons and out of doors, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, the boy, William, was born on the above date. The family, subsequently journeyed onward, overtaking the main body of the saints, near the Missouri River. In the spring of 1847, they left Winter Quarters, traveling across the prairies with ox teams and wagons.

While traveling near Fort Bridger, the child, William, fell out of the wagon, and two wheels of the wagon ran over his ankles. Elders administered to him and poultices of cedar berries were placed on his ankles. He recovered in a remarkable manner, and in a few days was quite well. His parents felt that his life was providentially saved, for a good purpose.

The Gardner family arrived in the Salt Lake Valley 1 October 1847.

William Gardner has ever been an active and energetic citizen and has occupied many positions of trust.

He has filled two missions, aggregating seven and one half years

among the Maoris of New Zealand, and was bishop of the Pine Valley Ward in southern Utah, where he now resides.

His father, Robert Gardner, is a veteran pioneer, and is still living, and proudly states that he has had thirty-seven children, twenty-seven of whom are still living. He has also one-hundred twenty-two grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

The writer spent several years in New Zealand with Bishop Gardner, and can testify that he is the worthy son of a worthy sire, and therefore should be classed amongst all notable pioneers.

(Note: This news article was printed 16, July 1897, and today, 10 Dec. 1996)

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1996 was recopied to make it legible, by R. Raymond Green MD)